



## **For the Week Ending December 25, 2015**

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following highlights some Departments' activities:

### **Town Manager's Office Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

Recently, the Front Porch Forum, (an on-line community information sharing forum available by subscription) has had a number of residents asking questions about expanding CCTA bus service in Colchester and in particular, the Malletts Bay area. I provided this post to explain the evolution of CCTA service in Colchester to date.

CCTA is a regional entity and two routes were created prior to the Town of Colchester's participation in CCTA's funding of general public transit routes. As recently as 2002, there was a community vote that did not support Colchester's participation in, and funding of, a CCTA bus route in Malletts Bay. The service on Rt. 15 was implemented by CCTA to serve residents along the corridor from Burlington to Essex Junction. It serves multiple communities and due to the number of residents, businesses, and institutions along this route, it is CCTA's highest ridership service.

The service on Route 7 from Burlington to Milton did not initially serve Colchester. Milton and CCTA approached the Town of Colchester offering a partnership that would allow the route to serve Creek Farm Plaza, Severance Corners and Water Tower Hill. This route was important to the Town for economic development. Businesses near Exit 16 were requesting the service and providing transit service was a requirement from the State for us to maintain a Growth Center designation which is an important incentive to retain and attract business investment. CCTA offered an attractive financial proposal. Considering the business requests and growth center incentives, the Selectboard agreed to a pilot project with CCTA.

CCTA revenues are maximized and the Town tax funded share is minimized when CCTA aligns the routes so that they will generate the highest ridership. It is not likely that the Rt. 15 and Rt. 7 services will be re-aligned to serve lower density residential areas. There may be opportunities for additional service, including service to the Bay and the Village in the future. However, we are only in the second year of a pilot project for the Rt. 7 service and we need to evaluate ridership and demand after some additional time.

The Town administration and Selectboard understand that residents desire additional services in many areas, including additional transit opportunities. At the same time, there are strong expectations for us to maintain tax increases at an affordable level. In order to limit growth in taxes, we must temper growth in services offered.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 802.264.5509



## Colchester Town News

*Colchester-What do you want to do today?*

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

### **Burnham Memorial Library Kelly Tomaseski, Director**

Season's Greetings and best wishes in the New Year! The Library will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. We'd like to mention a few of our upcoming programs:

**One-on-One Tutoring:** Tutoring is back the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>. Students from the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Colchester campus) tutor students in reading, math, and science at the library. The program is focused on grades 1-6, but tutoring is available in other grades for certain subjects. There is no fee for this service. You can call us at 264-5660 to sign up, or for more information.

**Lego Club:** Thursdays at 4 pm. Do you enjoy Legos? Stop by the library every Thursday, and join us! Each week we'll be creating a new project!

**Mah Jongg at the Library:** Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm, and Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Join the new Mah Jongg group at the library! It's a Chinese tile game that has become increasingly popular in the US. Whether you're new to the game, or have played for years, you're invited!

**Books & Bites at Junior's:** Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. New location and day! Join us for food and a book discussion. This month, we'll meet at Junior's Italian Restaurant in Colchester (85 S. Park Drive). We'll be reading "Everything I Never Told You" by Celeste Nguyen. Copies are available at the library.

**Teen Tinker Tuesday, Snow Globes:** Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. Teen Tinker is making snow globes! There's glitter, tiny figurines, glue, water and turning things upside down. What could possibly go wrong?! Join us and experiment with this super weird craft! Teens ages 12 & up. Please sign up at our website.

For more information about Burnham Memorial Library's events and services, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call (802) 264-5660.

### **Parks and Recreation Department Glen Cuttitta, Director**

**The following is the news and a small sampling of tasks completed by our department:**

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The Youth Basketball program is currently seeking referees. If you are interested in volunteering and having fun too, contact Isaac Spivey at 264-5646.

- New Parks Maintenance Building construction is proceeding nicely, roof is almost installed and exterior walls should be completed by January.
- Seasonal Park Staff spent several days trimming bushes and trees at Fort Ethan Allen Cemetery
- Malletts Bay Cemetery renovation is completed. Cemetery signs have been delivered and installed.
- Parks and Recreation Winter Program Brochure will be arriving in mailboxes on December 29th. You can view the programs on our website now.
- Colchester Youth Basketball practices have begun and games will start in January
- Colchester Winter Carnival Committee has started planning for the event; the Carnival will be held on February 5 & 6.
- Colchester's Got Talent registrations are now being accepted. Go to [www.colchestervt.gov/Recreation](http://www.colchestervt.gov/Recreation)
- ACE Staff is reviewing new licensing regulations just received from the State of Vermont; any necessary changes to the program will follow.
- Planning is beginning for the summer camps for 2016.
- Request for Proposals for Master Plans for Bayside Park and a Community Health and Wellness Center have been published; proposals are due January 14th. A Needs Assessment for the Health and Wellness Center will be completed.
- Currently updating the Special Event Request Form as we have seen an increase of outside groups wanting to use the parks.

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.

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